

Senate Bill 339

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Heath of the 31st, Mullis of the 53rd, Goggans of the 7th,
Rogers of the 21st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to general provisions concerning parks, historic areas, memorials, and
3 recreation, so as to provide that persons who have valid firearms licenses shall be authorized
4 to possess and carry firearms in state parks, historic sites, and recreational areas; to amend
5 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
6 relating to general provisions concerning hunting, so as to provide that persons who have
7 valid firearms licenses shall be authorized to possess and carry firearms in wildlife
8 management areas; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
9 purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
13 relating to general provisions concerning parks, historic areas, memorials, and recreation, is
14 amended by revising subsection (o) of Code Section 12-3-10, relating to prohibited acts in
15 state parks, historic sites, and recreational areas, as follows:

16 "(o) It shall be unlawful for any person to use or possess in any park, historic site, or
17 recreational area any fireworks, explosives, or firecrackers, unless stored so as not to be
18 readily accessible or unless such use has been approved by prior written permission of the
19 commissioner of natural resources or his authorized representative. It shall also be
20 unlawful for any person to use or possess in any park, historic site, or recreational area any
21 firearms, bows and arrows, spring guns, air rifles, slingshots, or any other device which
22 discharges projectiles by any means, unless the device is unloaded and stored so as not to
23 be readily accessible or unless such use has been approved within restricted areas by prior
24 written permission of the commissioner of natural resources or his authorized
25 representative; provided, however, that a person who has a valid license issued pursuant
26 to Code Section 16-11-129 may possess and carry a pistol, revolver, or other concealable

1 firearm in a park, historic site, or recreational area provided such pistol, revolver, or other
2 concealable firearm is possessed and carried in accordance with the provisions of Part 3 of
3 Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16."

4 SECTION 2.

5 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
6 relating to general provisions concerning hunting, is amended by revising Code
7 Section 27-3-1.1, relating to acts prohibited on wildlife management areas, as follows:

8 "27-3-1.1.

9 It shall be unlawful for any person on any wildlife management area owned or operated by
10 the department:

11 (1) To possess a firearm during a closed hunting season for that area unless such firearm
12 is unloaded and stored in a motor vehicle so as not to be readily accessible; provided,
13 however, that a person who has a valid license issued pursuant to Code Section
14 16-11-129 may possess and carry a pistol, revolver, or other concealable firearm in a
15 wildlife management area provided such pistol, revolver, or other concealable firearm is
16 possessed and carried in accordance with the provisions of Part 3 of Article 4 of Chapter
17 11 of Title 16;

18 (2) To possess a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle during a legal open hunting season
19 for that area; provided, however, that a person who has a valid license issued pursuant to
20 Code Section 16-11-129 may possess and carry a pistol, revolver, or other concealable
21 firearm in a wildlife management area provided such pistol, revolver, or other
22 concealable firearm is possessed and carried in accordance with the provisions of Part 3
23 of Article 4 of Chapter 11 of Title 16;

24 (3) To be under the influence of drugs, intoxicating liquors, beers, or wines. The
25 determination of whether any person is under the influence of drugs or intoxicating
26 liquors, beers, or wines may be made in accordance with Code Section 27-3-7;

27 (4) To hunt within 50 yards of any road which receives regular maintenance for the
28 purpose of public vehicular access;

29 (5) To target practice, except where an authorized shooting range is made available by
30 the department, and then only in a manner consistent with the rules for shooting ranges
31 promulgated by the board;

32 (6) To drive a vehicle around a closed gate, cable, sign, or other structure or device
33 intended to prevent vehicular access to a road entering onto or within such an area;

34 (7) To hunt within any posted safety zone;

35 (8) To camp upon or drive a motor vehicle over any permanent pasture or area planted
36 in crops;

1 (9) While hunting bears in any such area opened to bear hunting, to kill a female bear
2 with a cub or cubs or to kill a cub weighing less than 75 pounds;

3 (10) To fail to report if he or she kills a deer, bear, or turkey in the manner specified by
4 the rules of the department for that wildlife management area on the date killed to the
5 state game and fish checking station on the area;

6 (11) To construct any tree stand or to hunt from any tree stand except a portable or
7 natural tree stand; or

8 (12) To trap except with a special trapping permit issued by the department."

9 **SECTION 3.**

10 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.